

Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association Monthly Board of Directors Meeting – Final



Date: Aug 18, 2025
Starting Time: 5:31 pm
Ending Time: 7:09 pm
Hybrid meeting

ATTENDEES:

Board Members: Josh Piper (JP); Dale Bajema (DB), Roger Edwards (RE); Rachael Kuryanny (RK); Rob Johns (RJ); Mike Landstrom (ML); Jeff Strachan (JS); Bobbie (Rob) Walker (BW); Thomas Smith (TS); Kevin Clark (KC);

Online: Maj Britt (Max) Baker (MB); Bob Trimble (BT)

Guests: Dan Malone (DM); Heidi Goertzen, music advisor; Dick Spies, former board member and alum (DS)

ABSENT: Anthony Reimer (AR); Gerry Ochs (GO)

BUSINESS

- Guest – Heide Goertzen
 - Thanks to Josh for connecting her with other teachers/helpers. Gene Burton is helping with instruments; through Warner Pacific symphony program he's been involved in for over a decade. Gene is more wind, Dan more brass, a few string players.
 - We have 40 kids that have signed up for the Benson Band club run after school. Meeting with students next week on either Wed/Friday to gauge instrument needs.
 - DB donated a saxophone. If you know of others that want to donate instruments, please let us know.
 - We'd like to provide snacks for students when we meet, so we may come back to the board for money for snacks. JS noted he can open concessions for the band club.
 - We'll keep you abreast on how it's going.
 - Shelly Brian is the bookkeeper at Benson Tech. Heidi will speak to her this week about setting up a separate fund for donations for the band program.
 - Heide offered to get blurbs introducing the adults helping the program so we can put it in the alumni newsletter.
 - RK talked about the community gathering. You may want to have a table there.

- Dan Malone joined.
 - RK continued with thoughts about what we might be able to do.
 - Helpful to have as many groups as possible at the event. Example: friend's school didn't have a Jazz Band presence, and they wanted to talk to them.
 - Would love to have the athletics there with some kids in uniform if possible.
 - Food trucks, band playing?
 - The Alumni and robotics at Marshall was great! They really appreciated the tour.
 - DB - Principal Wilson was going to make major invites to incoming Freshman/etc.
 - RK – we will be inviting athletics and clubs to make a cohesive community presence.
 - Kelly is interested in selling Benson Tech gear; they do have some. There was a lot of interest in gear at the 8th grade info night. Incoming Freshmen will have demand. It aligns with the class competition fundraiser, so they will have a trophy there, so they will solicit donations.
- Heidi left the meeting.
- Discussion re music and other programs:
 - DB: Students had gone to the district to complain that there wasn't a music program at the school after it reopened, then Principal Wilson heard about it. Students were making some demands around pianos in the building. But Heidi coming forward was key. I wanted to highlight that persistence is a good lesson. If we want to bring back Architecture, drone program, etc. We must be persistent.
 - RJ: It also takes a teacher willing to be an advocate and advisor.
- DM:
 - There will be some form of music program in the building in 2026-27. Some decisions will have to be made in the next 5 months. Once it's a program then the district will provide instruments/funding.
 - It will be difficult to find one FTE to do choir, voice, band, wind, etc. From an administrative point of view, choir and guitar.
 - The club can use lockers in the music room, but the room is being used during the day.
- BT arrived online. KC arrived.
- DM:
 - We are right now building-wise where we should have been a year ago
 - F: 330 kids. Soph: 304, Junior: 210, Senior: 194 for total of 1038 students. Capacity is 1750. DM said – we want 1400.
 - 16 new staff, 11 licensed.

- We are the only H.S. that got additional FTE because we had 150 more kids.
- Almost all the secretaries are new, so be kind.
- Jamie is leaving, retiring, moving. JS will be heading to Ida B Wells. Brice and Dan will finish about the last million or so. 2 Andersen peeps still here.
- As of today, nothing is at Rose City storage. Much of it went to Clayton. We did sell some things in the Manufacturing space, and the money will go back into that program. The only thing not working currently is Foundry, which has to do with the fire suppression system. It's been hard to find people that are experts.
- Photos will be put up around the building next month.
- Both jets have been brought back, WWII one in the auto shop. Hood River Air Museum may take one.
- Freshman machine lathes are at Marshall. If someone wants one and wants to donate, we can talk. The next school into Marhsall is Cleveland and they probably don't have the teaching experts to use the lathes. Auto shop currently is stacked with air purifiers right now.
- DM is in on Tues/Thurs. He's at Benson at 11 on the 13th.
- Discussion re school budgets and decline in student populations: <https://www.wweek.com/news/schools/2025/08/07/enrollment-forecasts-for-portland-public-schools-project-continued-decline/>
 - "The medium-growth enrollment forecast by PSU is based on 2024–25 school year enrollment numbers. The district reported 43,375 students in the last academic year, 630 less than PSU had forecast then. Accordingly, the newest forecast by PSU projects steeper losses in the district's enrollment than projections from previous years. The district is expected to lose about 9% of its students by the 2029–30 school year."
- Discussed a few odds and ends left in the school.
 - Gym – finished the low voltage except one box, resurfaced the floors. There is protective stuff for the gym floor when needed.
- If any group wants to meet in the alumni room, how? Email DM rather than filling out a CUB first. Food is allowed.
- DM left the meeting.
- Member Report (JP)
 - 100 paid members.
- Financial Report (BT)
 - \$6236.00 in the Credit Union
 - May be one more check due to RK.
- School wasn't officially open for CUBS when we put one in, so secretary did it and transferred it us.
- Prior Meeting Minutes Approval (MB)

- June minutes sent a week ago. JS moved to approve the updated minutes, ML seconded. The motion passed.
- RK: Greg Huntington says the Yearbook/newspaper does not need financial assistance as he secured funds from the district. RJ: please let him know we'd be happy to have him back to hear how it's going.
- Sat Sept 13th Community Event - RK:
 - Got info to Principal Wilson and to Kelly for Booster's social media, and JP sent info out.
 - Went into detail on what we asked of teachers, clubs, affinity groups, etc. Principal Wilson shared it with the staff, and he will touch on it when the staff is back this week.
 - DB and RK are saying – we are sponsoring the event, but it's not an Alumni specific event – it's really like an open house where opportunities outside the classroom are showcased. Sports teams wearing uniforms, interactive things to present. Like an activity fair, where students can learn about different activities, and Boosters can be there. We will also have a few class reunions, and RK hopes to speak to each of the groups that day.
 - BW is in touch with some vendors that were there last year, 2 have confirmed they will be there.
 - JS will move hot dogs, chips, drinks to the community kitchen.
 - BT: they liked having lemonade/punch and water.
 - Everything other than tours will be in the commons area.
 - At end of October, we can re-evaluate how it went and timing. We think in September it will be easier to have staff/students attend.
 - Discussion about alumni snacks:
 - If the vendor is selling their special blue and orange cake, maybe better to do cookies, tangerines than cake.
 - Let's do cookies, rice Krispies, tangerines.
 - **RK proposes budget of up to \$200 for snacks, ML seconded. The motion passed.**
 - 12 student leaders have been requested to help lead tours.
 - RJ talked about the Model T, and Matt Pelico may do ice cream again.
 - We'll have a spot for stickers and other merch.
 - Kelly is on limited screen time right now, but Boosters will have a table. Not sure of status of their class competition fundraiser.
 - We are not doing sign-ins but will have name tags.
 - Will be cool to have banners for sections next year – Clubs, Athletics, etc.
 - T-shirts this year!
 - Directional signs – need to emphasize that it is neighborhood parking only. Principal Wilson requested that people enter on 16th and the side entrance, NOT in the front. This gets them closer to the courtyard instead of people just wandering through the school.

- Musical performers? Nothing confirmed.
 - Please arrive at 11AM. We advertised it to last until 3PM and we have the space until 4PM to clean up everything. Last tour is around 2PM.
 - ML – For the future: There was a former student used in a union commercial. We may want to get businesses/unions there at the picnic – good to make connections for internships, etc.
 - RK – Could use it also as a ‘job fair’.
 - BT – It does work. My daughter saw this at Tech Show and now is studying Welding.
 - Discussed Oaks Park event possibility, outreach to Unions.
 - MB mentioned possibility of having community groups there as well, like Norse Hall.
 - RK wants to ensure it’s not a way for them to push people buying things.
 - JP mention Boosters will have sponsored things from businesses.
 - Teachers like to bring their own folks/supporters.
 - RJ will contact Robotics club about demos/Norse Hall as sponsor.
 - DB – There will be an 8-page newsletter at the picnic, estimate at next meeting.
 - RK – It will be good for Alumni to mill around and make connections with everyone, wearing our T-Shirts.
- Annual Meeting – DB:
 - Date: Nov 10th.
 - Community room vs Alumni Room.
 - More than just Board/Annual meeting combo:
 - Dan Foster?
 - Radium Girls?
 - Speaker?
 - Food/Drink?
 - DB will say ‘Special Guests and Refreshments’ for the blurb in the newsletter.
 - JP:
 - Cleveland H.S. is starting their remodel. The organ does not have a home, and in the new building won’t have a home. It’s all still preliminary, but if we have an interest in bringing it back, we need to organize around it and fundraise for transportation and installation cost.
 - JP did walk through with DM, and there are a few places on the main floor where it could sit but not be operational, but this would be a start – there would then be the opportunity to figure out if it could be functional in the future.

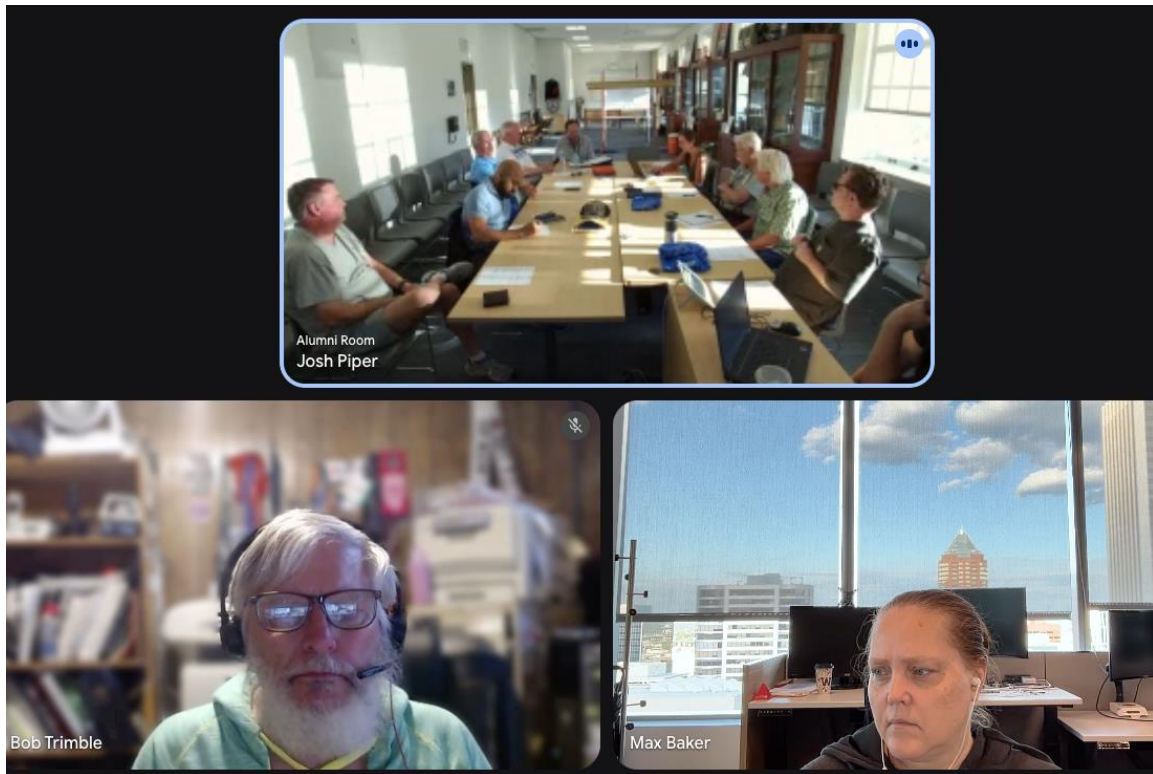
- We should probably form a subcommittee and figure out how much money needs to be raised.
- KC – can the district be approached? It's historical, and there's documentation. JP talked about the Tech Pep information and how it was important to the school in the past.
- JP – it would otherwise go to storage. Nobody at Cleveland will fight it coming back to Benson Tech. He has the name of an organization that would help.
- Discussion around how and when to ask for assistance, how to advertise bringing it back. Bringing it back for display is better than not bringing it back at all. Need research for cost and amount of work.
- JP – we need a champion. Portland Chapter American Guild of Organists: <https://www.facebook.com/pdxago/>, <https://www.portlandago.org/about-us>
- Digitizing Tech Peps - RE:
 - After the 60s, it wasn't consistent. Turnaround is quick.
 - He's been gleaning events for the timeline.
 - Still looking for missing Tech Peps.

UPCOMING BUSINESS

- September 8th is our next meeting.
- Sep 13th Community Picnic in the commons area.
- Next meetings: Oct 13, Nov 10th (annual)
- Tech show in 2026 is: April 16, 17th

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
 Secretary
 BPHS Alumni Association



BUSINESS SAVINGS		BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
BSAV00		\$3,456.28	\$0.09	-\$0.00	\$3,456.37
		YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
		\$0.53	\$0.00		
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description		Amount	Balance
06/30	06/30	Dividend Annual Percentage Yield Earned= 0.03% For 30 Days		0.09	3456.37

TOTAL OVERDRAFT AND RETURNED ITEM FEES		
Fee Type	Total For This Period	Total Year-To-Date
Total Overdraft Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Returned Items	\$0.00	\$-30.00

BUSINESS FLEX CHCK		BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
BFLX00		\$3,507.74	\$37.62	-\$225.00	\$3,320.36
		YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
		\$0.00	\$0.00		
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description		Amount	Balance
06/04	06/03	Withdrawal Draft Clearing Check #236 - Withdrawal, Draft Clearing		-225.00	3282.74
06/10	06/10	Deposit ACH PAYPAL*TRANSFER		37.62	3320.36

TOTAL OVERDRAFT AND RETURNED ITEM FEES		
Fee Type	Total For This Period	Total Year-To-Date
Total Overdraft Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Returned Items	\$0.00	\$0.00

CLEARED CHECKS - BUSINESS FLEX CHCK								
CHECK #	DATE PAID	AMOUNT	CHECK #	DATE PAID	AMOUNT	CHECK #	DATE PAID	AMOUNT
236	06/03	225.00						

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BUSINESS SAVINGS			BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE	
BSAV00			\$3,456.37	\$0.09	-\$0.00	\$3,456.46	
			YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD			
			\$0.62	\$0.00			
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description				Amount	Balance
07/31	07/31	Dividend Annual Percentage Yield Earned= 0.03% For 31 Days				0.09	3456.46

TOTAL OVERDRAFT AND RETURNED ITEM FEES		
Fee Type	Total For This Period	Total Year-To-Date
Total Overdraft Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Returned Items	\$0.00	\$-30.00

BUSINESS FLEX CHCK		BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE	
BFLX00		\$3,320.36	\$0.00	-\$540.33	\$2,780.03	
		YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD			
		\$0.00	\$0.00			
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description			Amount	Balance
07/15	07/15	Withdrawal ACH FACILITRON, INC*YHQRESABU6*800-272-2962			-540.33	2780.03

TOTAL OVERDRAFT AND RETURNED ITEM FEES		
Fee Type	Total For This Period	Total Year-To-Date
Total Overdraft Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Returned Items	\$0.00	\$0.00

Emails from RK to Principal Wilson re community event:

SAVE THE DATE!

Benson Tech Community Celebration

Saturday, September 13th, 2025

Noon-4pm

546 NE 12th Ave, Portland 97232

Join us for an afternoon of celebrating all things Benson Tech!

This family-friendly event is a great chance for current and future students, their families, alumni, and supporters from the community to engage with each other, see the new facility, and learn about what's happening at Benson Tech..

The celebration will include:

- Tours of the school
- An activity fair highlighting current clubs and athletic teams
- Performances by student musicians
- Food trucks (food for purchase)
- Benson Tech gear for sale in the student store
- Class Reunions (1985, 1995, and 2005 confirmed)

For more information, please visit the [Benson Polytechnic High School group on Facebook](#), or email the BPHSAA (Alumni Association) at info@BensonTechAlumni.org

Additional Info for faculty and staff:

We (the BPHSAA, AKA the Alumni Association) are excited to host the rebranded and reimaged Benson Tech Community Celebration on Saturday, 9/13, from 12-4pm.

We are hoping this event can serve not only as a chance for Alumni to tour and reconnect with Benson Tech, but also as a means of introducing incoming students and families to some of the extracurricular opportunities available to them.

In order to make the Community Celebration a success, we will need participation from staff and returning students. Some specific groups of people we're hoping will help with the event:

1. Athletic coaches and faculty advisors of school-sanctioned clubs

We're planning an "activities fair" type event in the cafeteria, and are hoping to have most (or all!) sports and clubs represented. Each activity will have its own table, ideally run by the coach/supervisor along with a current student or two who can chat with (and recruit!) interested students and families. Additionally, we're asking that you:

- Create a sign for your table that identifies your group

- Provide handouts (or a QR code) with info about your organization for attendees to review at home
- Have students come in uniform, if applicable
- Bring an illustration (photos, video, hands on examples, etc) of your group in action/what your group does, if possible
- RSVP to Rachael @ RachaeLLKK@gmail.com by 9/5 so we are sure to reserve you a table

2. Student leaders/council

The primary draw for alumni attending the event is the chance to check out the modernized school. There will be three class reunions gathering during the Community Celebration, along with countless individual alumni. Historically, at least 50% of these folks will want to take a tour of the school. Additionally, the Community Celebration will be the first opportunity most new families will have to explore the school, and we're expecting a large turnout. With that in mind, we:

- Will be running ~45 min tours (likely multiple simultaneously), departing at 1 and 2:15pm
- Would like 10-12 student leaders to help co-lead the tours (in groups of 2 or 3), and to assist with greeting and orienting attendees

3. Faculty and staff unaffiliated with sports, clubs, or student leadership

The more the merrier! Ideally, we'd have a faculty member along on each tour to help expand on the information provided by the student leaders, and to offer insight into the goings-on of their particular departments, courses, and classrooms. In prior years, parents of new students have been eager to connect with people who actually work at the school, often peppering those of us on the Alumni Board with questions we're ill-equipped to answer. Faculty engagement with alumni, families, and members of the extended BPHS community goes a long way in helping to cultivate support for the school, its programs, extracurriculars, The Boosters, The Benson Tech Foundation, and the like.

Note that this is a family friendly event, and faculty are welcome (encouraged, even) to bring their families along!

Questions? Suggestions? Want to help out in ways not addressed above?

Contact me at RachaeLLKK@gmail.com or (503) 998-2923.

Thanks much, and Go Tech!